

Dear Co-Chair Winfield, Co-Chair Stafstrom, Vice Chair Flexer, Vice Chair Blumenthal, Ranking Member Kissel, Ranking Member Fishbein, and all members of the Judiciary Committee:

I **OPPOSE** Senate Bill 16!

I find almost everything about this bill offensive.

Governor Lamont is clearly out of touch. Roughly 70% of gun offenses in Connecticut today are not prosecuted and the majority of all gun crimes in the state are committed by criminals. And yet he has the audacity to declare that Connecticut has “too many damn guns”?

Now he and democratic lawmakers want once again bring up the old “stop and frisk” tactic that clearly violates The Constitution when just last year he called for limiting police engagement! This part of the bill has been defeated ad nauseam as being at risk for profiling. What the heck is he doing?

I also find it offensive that he now wants to fund the Statewide Firearms Trafficking Task Force! Many gun owners have been saying this for years and every year it gets rejected. But now he uses this as the basis for imposing more gun control legislation and creating a whole new class of “Assault Weapons”, which will make felons of law abiding gun owners if they do not register their legal firearms.

Did you know that 2020 and 2021 set records for new legal permit holders all over the country? Yes, these new law-abiding gun owners are all ages, genders, races, sexual orientation and political affiliations. Indeed, Governor Lamont is out of touch.

Please **oppose** Senate Bill 16!

In addition, I also **OPPOSE** H.B. No. 5416 – AN ACT CONCERNING BULK PURCHASES OF PISTOLS AND REVOLVERS. Why should **law abiding** citizens be limited in the number of **legal** firearms that they are allowed to purchase.

I **SUPPORT** Raised S.B. No. 388 – AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEFENSE OF A PERSON OR A PERSON’S DWELLING, PLACE OF WORK OR

MOTOR VEHICLE. A law abiding citizen should be allowed to defend themselves and/or others in their dwelling, motor vehicle or place of work, with the presumption that it is reasonable to believe deadly physical force is necessary to defend oneself or another person, or oneself from a person who has unlawfully entered one's dwelling, place of work or motor vehicle.

I **SUPPORT** Raised H.B. No. 5415 – AN ACT CONCERNING THE TRANSFER OF ASSAULT WEAPONS AND LARGE CAPACITY MAGAZINES. Registered owners of “assault weapons” and “large capacity magazines” should be allowed to transfer them under these reasonable changes to the law.

I **SUPPORT** Raised H.B. No. 5412 – AN ACT CONCERNING THE DUTY TO RETREAT IN A RELIGIOUS HOUSE OF WORSHIP. Members of a house of worship should be allowed to defend themselves without being required to retreat from an aggressor. We have all seen news of mass shootings in Churches, as well as instances where these stopped by law abiding citizens. Please support this bill and allow citizens of CT to defend themselves in the state.

Sincerely,

John Cripps
Seymour, CT